

**SECRET**

OPERATIONS GROUP FILE

## MUSLIM WORLD CONSUMER INTERVIEWS

(LRB/Forest)

Interview with [ ] Deputy Chief, Southwest Asia Analytic Center, OPA  
 Interview with [ ], Iranian analyst, Southwest Asia Analytic Center, OPA

25X1

25X1

12 March 1981 x4380

[ ] started the conversation by saying that his office had just finished a SNIE on Iran at the request of Haig. The conclusion of the SNIE, with which Community analysts apparently all agree, is that during the next 12 months there will be more disorder and that the prospects for civil war and disintegration of Iran are serious enough that policymakers should be worried about it. They are not that pessimistic that they think this will happen in the next six months, but they do feel the chances of a military coup or an attempted coup are significant and that there is a good chance of an increase in the power struggle. There is also concern that the Soviets will take advantage of this disorder and that various leftwing groups will somehow also profit.

25X1

He said that FBIS has done a very good job of covering the pronouncements of these leftwing groups.

25X1

He said that today's Iran analyst is in the same position as the old China analyst in that he must depend on FBIS for his information. His position has been greatly helped by the fact that the Iranian press is relatively free. He said that FBIS has been very helpful in providing the texts of Iranian leaders' speeches and added that he greatly appreciates our providing how long it took Khomeyni to deliver the speech. He said this has been very valuable in determining the state of Khomeyni's health--they now estimate he will not die in the next six months.

He said that FBIS has done a very good job on Iranian coverage. He said he has been impressed with how FBIS always monitors important speeches no matter what time of day or night they are delivered and always seems to get those which have not been previously announced. He said he is always amazed at how FBIS seems to be able to identify those leaders in which analysts should be interested.

He said that the value of regional radio broadcasts seems to come and go. When Tehran is in good shape, the regional radios follow Tehran's lead. This is the case at present. He said that our continued coverage of regional radios is important, however, because when disorder comes of if there is a military coup, it will probably come from outside Tehran and these regional radio centers will be very important for following events.

He said they have been interested in the clandestine radios and particularly cited the Iraqi radio Voice of Al-Qadisiyah from Ahvaz and Voice of Iranian Kordestan, the radio of the Kurdish Democratic Party. He said that the latter radio has been broadcasting communiques which are giving OPA their first

25X1

**SECRET**

~~SECRET~~

independent source on what is going on in the KDP. As a result, they now have a much better feel for what the Kurds are saying and doing. He said they are getting almost as much information from these broadcasts as they are getting from SIGINT, and as a result they are able to use unclassified citations in their reports.

He said that OPA usually relies on an FSO in an embassy to prepare an airgram on the contents of the local press. In the case of Iran, OPA officers must start from scratch. As a result, they make much heavier use of JPRS than most other components in OPA. The JPRS Reports have been particularly valuable when they are doing research on such groups as the Feda'iyān-e Khalq, Mojahedin-e Khalq, and Tudeh Party, and he said they particularly appreciate the coverage from these groups' newspapers. He said they are planning to prepare a major research paper on the Tudeh Party.

He said they like what has been appearing in the JPRS Reports and thinks we are covering everything they need. He said they are also glad when important newspaper articles are carried in the Daily Report.

He said that the TRENDS articles on Iran are used by the Soviet analyst in the Southwest Asia Analytic Center but that he and other members of the Center also find the articles thought-provoking. He said they had a "dynamic of their own" under Admiral Turner and that they were included in a package of materials sent to the Admiral each week. He said that thus far Mr. Casey has not been reading as much as Admiral Turner.

[ ] said the Daily Report articles on Iran serve as a major support for their short-deadline product and that the JPRS Reports serve as a good research source. She said that the Table of Contents of each JPRS is circulated to each analyst, who then indicates which articles they would like xeroxed for their files. She said they have a good working relationship with the people in Production Group and appreciate /receiving calls alerting them to important articles or asking whether other articles should be translated.

25X1

[ ] said that the OPA Near East South Asia Division Chief reads his Middle East Daily Report cover to cover (he got into the practice when he was a China analyst) and that he makes notations on certain articles and questions his analysts about their opinions on these articles.

25X1

[ ] returned to the issue of the clandestines and said his office thinks they are important, both for the information on what the message is and who their targets are and also as confirmation of information received from other sources. He said they also make a point of following NVOI and will be watching it for changes in the policy line for the Tudeh Party as Iran starts to disintegrate.

25X1

~~SECRET~~